

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 16 | Humidity 32%

Hazy sunshine

Sensex 78,583 | Nifty 23,739 | Gold 83,779 | Silver 95,301 | Dollar 87.06 | Euro 90.39 | GBP 108.67

BREATHE EV-ASY

To minimise health risks due to pollution, health dept pushes for EV-only future for cabs, autos, and public transport in city



DROP IN THE OCEAN

As BBMP gears to dig 1,500 recharge wells across 306 parks, one wonders how much rainwater harvesting would city need



Activists discuss fall-out of not having safe houses to protect interfaith and intercaste couples — though having an active and responsive social welfare department helps, it is just not enough to help all in need

AIN'T NO SAFE PLACE FOR LOVE

Anti-conversion laws are often misused: Advocate

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Activists and experts have pointed out a serious lapse in the state -- with no safe houses, couples fleeing persecution have nowhere to seek refuge.

In 2024, Maharashtra witnessed a significant development for couples facing life threats due to inter-caste or inter-faith relationships. On December 19, 2024, the Bombay High Court issued a protective order, directing immediate transfer of a couple to a government-designated safe house by 6 pm. This ruling followed a circular issued by Maharashtra's State Social Justice and Home departments on December 18, 2024, establishing safe houses across all districts for inter-faith and inter-caste couples.

One of the legal representatives of the couple, advocate Lara Jesani, told Bangalore Mirror that such safe houses have already been established in cities such as Delhi and Chandigarh, and now are also designated in Maharashtra through the latest government circular. "Often, couples need to go to court to



“Monetary incentives do not save lives. We need to drive an attitude change in society by normalising inter-caste marriages like Basavanna did

—Sivamanithan S, advocate

obtain protection. Karnataka not having in place such a mechanism is a serious lapse. It essentially means that interfaith and

intercaste couples who are exercising their constitutionally guaranteed right to choose their partner and facing threats on

account of the same, are not being provided state mechanisms when in need.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

Testing times

Government's free CET coaching for PU students faces teething troubles



Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

The State Government's free Common Entrance Test (CET) coaching programme for government PU college students is facing several hurdles in its implementation, preventing it from achieving its intended goal. Additionally, making attendance for CET classes mandatory is creating difficulties for students preparing for their PU II board exams.

Students said that the programme aims to provide free CET coaching to students from economically weaker and middle-class backgrounds. However, problems with the online class schedule and lack of study materials have rendered the initiative ineffective. The government is conducting two CET coaching sessions per day—one in the morning and another in the afternoon. Due to poor student attendance, the authorities have made attendance compulsory, putting principals and lecturers in a dilemma.

Timetable conflict

A student said, "CET online coaching sessions are being projected in classrooms from 9.15 am to 10.15 am and from 3.15 pm to 4.15 pm, overlapping with regular academic classes. PU lecturers are already under pressure to complete the syllabus and prepare students for board exams, and the CET schedule is disrupting their ability to do so. The coaching programme started

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Drama alive

Celebrate the magic of theatre with the National School of Drama as they bring the Rang Shashthi theatre festival series to Bengaluru. Experience some of their most acclaimed productions, staged as part of Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM) 2025. Don't miss this opportunity to witness iconic plays performed by one of the country's finest theatre groups. **Where:** Kalagrama Auditorium; **When:** February 5-8, 6:00 pm



02 Literary Haven

Step into the world of words at Shruti, a dedicated programme on literary arts as part of Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2025. Featuring book launches, literary discussions, and engaging dialogues, Shruti offers a space for literature lovers to explore and connect more into the literature world. **Where:** Kalagrama Auditorium; **When:** February 7, 4:00 pm

03 Cultural Rhythm

Step outside the conventional stage and witness Ambience Performances, where folk and traditional artists from across India bring their art to life in open spaces. Enjoy vibrant music, dance, and cultural expressions in an immersive experience. **Where:** Kalagrama Auditorium **When:** February 5-8

04 Cultural Bazaar

Explore Rang Haat, a vibrant marketplace featuring handicrafts, theatre merchandise, books, and cultural artifacts. This is the perfect place to take home a piece of the festival! **Where:** Kalagrama Auditorium; **When:** February 5-8, 10:00 am - 8:00 pm

05 Book launch

Join an engaging discussion with Dr Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy as he launches Milk of Equality, Soured. Translator Dr Jyothi S and writer-publisher Yogesh Maitreya will join him to explore the book's powerful reflections on history, thought, and emancipation. Don't miss this thought-provoking literary event. **Where:** Champaca bookstore; **When:** February 9, 5:30 pm



Health department pushes EV shift for autos, cabs, buses

Transport dept is urged to approve only EVs for future commercial registrations, citing rising pollution; experts highlight infrastructure gaps, high costs in transition

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The Health Department has urged the Transport Department to approve only electric vehicles for future commercial registrations in the State. In a letter to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "There is an alarming rise in air pollution due to fossil fuel-powered vehicles which is posing severe health risks to the city's residents. With Bengaluru's dense population and geographical conditions worsening pollution levels, the city risks earning a reputation similar to Delhi if immediate action is not taken."

He suggested that to curb long-term environmental damage and protect public health, the Health Department has recommended that all newly registered commercial vehicles—including autos, cabs, taxis, goods carriers, and solid waste collection vehicles—be exclusively electric. Additionally, it has been proposed that all future procurements of city transport buses also be limited to electric vehicles (EVs). "I stress that moving away from traditional fuel sources is no longer just an option but an urgent necessity. Encouraging the use of public transport and expanding the EV fleet are crucial steps in mitigating air pollution," Rao added.

Reacting to this, transport experts said that the move aligns



Air pollution is rapidly increasing due to fossil fuel-powered vehicles, creating serious health risks for citizens

with the state's broader environmental and sustainability goals. The Karnataka government has already been incentivising EV adoption through subsidies, tax exemptions, and investments in charging infrastructure. While the proposal has been met with support from environmentalists and health experts, several challenges need to be addressed to ensure smooth implementation. "One of the biggest hurdles is the lack of sufficient charging stations across Bengaluru. For a large-scale transition to EVs, the city needs a widespread and reliable network of fast-charging stations to ensure that vehicles

can operate efficiently without long downtime for charging. Another major concern is the high initial cost of electric vehicles. Although EVs have lower operational expenses in the long run, their upfront purchase price remains a significant barrier for many drivers, particularly auto-rickshaws and cab operators who depend on daily earnings for sustenance. Without substantial subsidies or affordable financing options, adoption may be slow," said Sathyanarayan D, an expert.

Vincent George, another expert added, "Battery performance and range limitations pose additional challenges.

While advancements in EV technology are continuously improving battery efficiency, concerns remain about durability and the ability of these vehicles to sustain long hours of operation, especially for those in the commercial transport sector. Furthermore, implementing a complete shift from conventional fuel-powered vehicles to EVs will require strong government enforcement and strategic incentives. Resistance

Implementing complete shift from conventional fuel-powered vehicles to EVs will require strong govt enforcement

— Vincent G, expert

from transport unions and fleet operators, who may be hesitant about transitioning due to cost concerns and uncertainties about infrastructure readiness, could slow down adoption. Despite these challenges, with the right government support, strategic planning, and infrastructure development, Bengaluru can successfully transition to an EV-dominated public transport system in the coming years. A phased approach, with proper incentives and infrastructure development, and stakeholder collaboration, will be key to making this ambitious vision a reality."

Security arrangements take to the skies for Aero India 2025

Robust safety measures are in place, with coordinated efforts, real-time monitoring

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As Bengaluru prepares to host the Aero India show next week, a comprehensive multi-layered security system has been put in place to ensure the safety of all attendees. An official confirmed that security arrangements are being implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Bengaluru Police, CISE,

and Intelligence Agencies.

The official said, "The measures include enhanced security protocols and faster access control, along with a fully operational Command and Control Center to enable real-time responses to security concerns. Round-the-clock CCTV monitoring has been deployed to maintain situational awareness, while dedicated screening zones have been set up for visitors, exhibitors, and VIPs. Additionally, disaster management and fire safety committees are in place to handle any emergencies."

According to officials, extensive improvements have been made to facilitate seamless entry, movement, and connectivity. There has also been close coordination between the Ministry of Defence, Indian Air Force (IAF), and various arms of Karnataka

State Government like Bengaluru Traffic Police, BBMP, NHA and Namma Metro. Additionally, approach roads have been widened to optimise traffic flow around Air Force Station Yelahanka, to ease congestion and improve movement around the venue.

"Real-time traffic monitoring is being carried out in collaboration with the traffic police to allow dynamic route adjustments. The Ministry of Defence has hired AC shuttle buses to provide free conveyance to visitors from various city locations to Air Force Station in Yelahanka to ease traffic congestion. Joint aerial surveys have been conducted to identify and address choke points, resulting in widened access roads and dedicated entry and exit routes for different categories of visitors, exhibitors, and officials thus reducing bottlenecks," an



official added. Red drone zones have been designated and published, with countermeasures in place to tackle unauthorised drone activity. Rapid

Mobile Units will be deployed strategically to provide quick assistance and emergency support. Furthermore, continuous mock drills with multiple agencies are being conducted to ensure practical and implementable contingency plans.

Officials said that all telecom service providers are deploying temporary mobile towers and network boosters for uninterrupted communication. A dedicated Aero India 2025 mobile app has also been launched to provide live updates, navigation assistance, and event scheduling. Secure digital communication channels have been established for coordination among agencies. Additionally, provisions have been made to support increased electricity demands during the event, all the while ensuring safety.



Dream fulfilled

In a heartwarming event to mark **World Cancer Day**, City Police Commissioner B Dayanand made this week's press meet more special. Along with the additional and joint commissioners, he was accompanied by four children, all cancer patients, whose dream is to become policemen. The children—Jeevan, Vishwas, Divyashree, and Pallavi—were invited to the traffic police commissioner's office, where Dayanand handed them mock powers and briefed them on traffic rules. On the importance of following traffic rules to prevent road accidents, he said, "Life is precious, and one should not lose it unnecessarily."

Pic: Kaushik JN

Drugs worth ₹60L seized, 3 arrested

A trail of illegal drug sales, from northeastern India to Bengaluru's streets, was cut short as the CCB Anti-Narcotics Squad that cracked down on a network peddling heroin and prescription drugs. In three separate operations, officers arrested three individuals, including two foreign nationals, and seized contra-

band worth Rs 60 lakh.

The first arrest was made on January 30 in RT Nagar after officers acted on a tip-off about a drug dealer selling heroin. The accused admitted to sourcing the drug from contacts in Nagaland and Assam before distributing it in the city. Authorities seized 78.22 grams of heroin, two mobile phones, and an elec-

tronic weighing machine from his possession.

Two days later, on February 1, two foreign nationals were detained in Amruthalli and Kodigehalli for overstaying their visas. During questioning, they confessed to remaining in India illegally. They were produced before the Foreigners Regional Registration Office

(FRRO) and sent to the Foreign Restriction Center in Sondekoppa.

In another raid on January 31, officers intercepted a suspect in Chamundi Nagar for illegally selling prescription drugs. The operation led to the recovery of 110 bottles of Rexocard cough syrup, 150 Tramadol tablets, and 120 Alphazol tablets. **BMB**

Father-son duo among 3 arrested for mobile phone snatching racket

A father and his son were among three individuals arrested for their involvement in a city-wide mobile phone snatching racket. A total of 93 stolen mobile phones worth ₹30.40 lakh, along with a two-wheeler used in the crimes, were recovered.

The case came to light when a resident of a paying guest (PG) accommodation in Mahadevapura filed a complaint on January 15. The complainant reported that while passing near B-Narayanapura, an unidentified person on a two-wheeler snatched his phone and fled. Based on this, a case was registered at Mahadevapura Police Station. During investigation, police tracked down one suspect near Rainbow Hospital on January 18, recovering two stolen mobile phones and the vehicle used in the crime. Upon interrogation, the accused confessed to multiple thefts across Bengaluru. Further investigations led to the recovery of 21 phones from his residence

in Saraipalya and the arrest of his accomplices.

On January 23, another suspect was apprehended on Thanisandra Main Road with two stolen mobile phones. Later, on January 31, the third accused was caught on Neeladri Road in Electronic City with 21 phones. Following his confession, the police recovered the remaining 47 stolen mobile phones from his residence in Mangammanapalya on February 1.

Shockingly, one of the accused, Salman, had his father's support in the criminal activities. Salman and his associate Sajid would snatch phones from unsuspecting victims, mainly in Mahadevapura, Marathahalli, and Hennur, before handing them over to Sajid in Mangammanapalya. Sajid then sold the stolen phones to Salman's father, Farooq, who acted as the bridge. The trio avoided stealing iPhones due to their advanced security features. **BMB**

Gold, cash vanish in puncture hoax

Two men tricked a car owner into stopping by fraudulently alerting him about a flat tyre, only to vanish with a bag containing gold jewelry and cash worth Rs 12 lakh. The heist, executed in broad daylight near Hope Farm, left the victim stunned. However, Kadugodi police meticulously pieced together clues, leading to the arrest of the culprits and the recovery of the stolen valuables.

The complainant had withdrawn Rs 5 lakh in cash and carried 250 grams of gold ornaments in a bag in July last year. After depositing Rs 50,000 at a bank near Belathur Gate, he was informed that bank lockers were full, forcing him to take the remaining valuables home.

When he was near Hope Farm, two bikers alerted him that his car had a punctured tyre and sped past. When he stopped to check, he saw that it had no air and so he proceeded to a nearby repair shop. Seizing the opportunity, an unknown individual smashed the front left window of his car and fled with the bag containing gold and cash.

An extensive investigation led the police to arrest two suspects on January 8, on Agrahara Main Road in Parappana. During interrogation, the accused admitted to the crime and disclosed the location of the stolen valuables. The mother of one of the accused handed over 101 grams of gold and Rs 4.5 lakh in cash to the police on January 27. The accused, are linked to three similar cases. **BMB**

Rape & murder: Accused nabbed

The Ramamurthy Nagar police have arrested a man for allegedly raping and murdering a Bangladeshi woman near Kalkere Lake. The accused, Mudukappa (28), who hails from Bagalkot and is a water tanker driver in Bengaluru, was taken into custody on February 2. City Police Commissioner B Dayanand confirmed his arrest.

The body of 28-year-old Najma was discovered on January 24 in an isolated area near Kalkere Lake, where she was allegedly raped and strangled to death. According to

police sources, Najma and Mudukappa were acquainted, as she lived in a shed where he supplied water.

On January 23, while Najma was returning home from work, Mudukappa followed her and lured her to a secluded spot. When she resisted his advances, he sexually assaulted her, strangled her, and then threw a stone on her head before fleeing the scene.

Police revealed that Najma and Mudukappa had lost contact but he spotted her again at an apartment where she worked. **BMB**

ಎಕಲಂಟ್ ಕೋಚಿಂಗ್ ಸ್ಕಾಲರ್ಸ್ ವಿಜಯಪುರ
ನ ಆಶ್ರಮ ರೋಡ, ಆದರ್ಶ ನಗರ.

8618837740, 7483860673, 9739736061, 9632059158

SUMMER VACATION-2025
(Eng & Kan Med) Admissions Started for

IV&V Sainik/Navodaya/Kittur/RMS Coaching Maths, English, Intelligence (IQ) & GK	VI to X (Mathematics, Science & English Grammar) Classes Start from : 02.04.2025
--	---

2023-24 Result

Sainik Schools - 435	SSLC
Karnataka - 167	Above 95%
Others States - 268	(143 Students)
Navodaya Schools - 102	

Basavaraj Koulagi
Founder Chairman

Separate Hostel Facility Available For Boys & Girls

EMPERT®

WHERE SUCCESS IS A TRADITION

ADMISSIONS OPEN

CRASH COURSE FOR NEET / CET 2025 (Students currently studying 2nd PU may apply) Crash course will be conducted after completion of 2nd PU Karnataka Board Exams 2025 and before NEET/CET 2025	COACHING FOR 2ND PU BOARD EXAM (Vacation Batches) + NEET / JEE (MAIN) / CET - 2026 (Students currently studying 1st PU may apply) Classes commence by 2nd March, 2025
CLASSROOM COACHING FOR CLASS 10 (State & CBSE) Students studying class 9 currently may apply Vacation Batches Classes commence by 3rd Week of March, 2025 Vacation Cum Regular Batches (For those who are studying in and around Mangalore) Classes commence by 1st Week of March/April, 2025	Introducing Expert E-Learn AI-enabled learning platform Online Crash Courses for NEET & K-CET 2025 Enroll now at www.experttelearn.com

EMPERT® e-learn

EMPERT® 96434 07696
0824 - 2493696, 2496696, 2497694, 2496615

Administrative Block, Kalakunj Road, Kodialbail, MANGALORE - 575 003
Email: admissions@expertedu.co.in | Website: expertedu.co.in

Join EXPERT & be an EXPERT

As white-topping muddies waters, citizens at lurch

In some areas there is no water supply, while at others, contaminated and unsafe water has made residents sick

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

White-topping work has caused major mayhem on Promenade Road and MM Road. While residents of Promenade Road complain of illness due to water contamination, MM Road residents say they had to pay money for the repair of water pipes damaged during white topping. The trouble started when white-topping work damaged pipes and left the areas without any water supply for days.

"We have been running pillar to post to get the water supply restored. I met all the authorities, including Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner on Tuesday, requesting him to direct the engineers to fix the problem. We have been getting contaminated water for the last 15 days. The BWSSB (Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board) engineers have not fixed the problem despite repeated reminders," said Venkatasubramani, Vice President of Promenade Road Cross Residents Association. He added that samples sent to the laboratory revealed that the water was also contaminated. "We submitted the laboratory reports on water quality to the BWSSB engineer who has been assuring us that the problem would be fixed, but has done nothing to date," he said.



White-topping on Promenade and MM Roads cause water supply disruptions, contamination, and costly repairs for residents

"We've been getting contaminated water for last 15 days. BWSSB have not fixed the problem despite reminders" -Venkatasubramani, Residents association

Umera Faisal, a resident of the Green Avenue Apartment on Mosque Road, explained that around 15 families residing at the apartment complex have been facing problems due to a lack of water supply. "The workers engaged by the contractor damaged the water supply pipe while digging the road. We complained to the BWSSB engineer about this. They wanted to replace the damaged water pipe. They asked



us to procure the required material to connect to the main water pipe.

We did what they asked but to date, our water supply has not been restored," said Faisal. Antony Chirayath, another resident, said that it had become tough for the residents to cope with the issue. "The BWSSB authorities must restore water supply as early as possible. We have been suffering a lot without water supply for the last 15 days," he said.

BWSSB Assistant Engineer Rahul H confirmed the contamination of water on the 2nd Cross of Promenade Road. "We have been working to fix this problem. We have taken measures to prevent sewage from mixing with Cauvery water. This problem will be fixed in one or two days," he said. Commenting on the lack of water supply to the residents, the Assistant Engineer said that he would look into the matter.

whatsapp
MIRROR
9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Crowded signals

MG Road



Vendors crowding traffic signals near MG Road, obstruct vehicle movement, causing frequent delays across the city.

Blocked walkways

Jayanagar



Advertisement boards placed on footpaths near Jayadeva Hospital in Jayanagar, block pedestrian movement, forcing people to walk on roads.

'No measures in place to prevent honour killings'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It's a lacunae that needs to be addressed urgently."

When asked how the presence of the anti-conversion law in Karnataka would impact couples, she said that the anti-conversion laws are often misused, specially when it comes to interfaith couples and poses an impediment even when they opt for secular marriages without conversion. "Moreover, consensual conversion is protected under the Constitution. It protects the freedom to practice and convert to any religion, as long as it is done voluntarily," she said.

A 2012-2021 study by the Dalit Human Rights Defenders Network and National Council for Women Leaders documented honour killings across seven Indian states, noting increased violence against interfaith and inter-caste couples. Safe houses

represent crucial protection, particularly given the NCRB's Crime in India 2022 data reporting 18 honour killing cases, with potentially more unreported incidents.

Dr Siddharth KJ, an independent researcher, said there are no safe houses for couples fleeing threat in Karnataka. "There is a provision of helplines. A positive note is that the social welfare department has taken up the measure as it is the most responsive. However, their missionary also does not reach very deep into rural India. It ends at the taluk level and the taluk level officer is the last person that can be sought after for aid. There is an issue of accessibility." He noted that when compared to other states, the police are more accessible as they often take up patrolling and stations are situated within each locality. Further, he said that the social welfare department is reactive

Safe houses represent crucial protection, particularly given the NCRB's Crime in India 2022 data reporting 18 honour killing cases

only and has not put any stringent measures in place to prevent honour-crimes from occurring.

The Special Marriage Act mandates marriage officials to issue a public notice soliciting objections to an impending marriage 30 days before the ceremony. This provision is often taken advantage of by right-wing organisations. Siddharth pointed out that while the provision in the Special Marriage Act itself makes an occasion for extra judicial pressure to be put on such marriages; the state's promise of a shelter is contradictory. Previously,

the Supreme Court has also acknowledged that the provision is patriarchal and violates people's privacy.

All India Lawyers' Association for Justice (AILAJ) in March last year wrote to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah requesting the prohibition of the prevailing practice of uploading 'notices of intended marriage' under Special Marriage Act in the website of the registration department. While acknowledging that the procedure is being followed as per Section 6 of the Special Marriage Act, the association said that it was violative of the fundamental rights of the concerned adults to privacy and dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Sivamanithan S, an advocate from Bengaluru said that Karnataka only provides monetary benefits to inter-caste couples and does not have a history of violent honour crimes occurring. "We can witness violent honour

killings happening in our neighbouring state Tamil Nadu. There was a case where despite having been provided protection by the superintendent of police, a couple was killed. Safe homes can be easily identified by those intending to cause harm to the couple and the State missionary can prove to be inadequate in providing 24/7 protection," he said.

He noted that prejudices of individual cops can also come in the way of effectively providing support to couples in distress and the full realisation of initiatives such as safe houses.

He explained that the government must encourage anti-caste behaviours as caste identity seems to gain more significance each day as a remedy. "Monetary incentives do not save lives. We need to drive an attitude change in society by normalising inter-caste marriages like Basavanna did," he said.

Recharge plan: BBMP gears to catch more rain in pits

1,500 wells to be dug across 306 parks; experts say many more needed to quench city's thirst

Garima Prasher & Sridhar Vivan
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

If all goes as per plan, Bengaluru's annual rainwater harvesting capacity through recharge wells will reach 543 million litre per year by the end of October 2025. Between January and October, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in association with non-profit organisation United Way Bengaluru plans to dig nearly 1,500 wells across 306 parks in the city. This will take the tally of total recharge wells dug by BBMP in its 510 parks in the city to 4,239.

According to United Way, every well being dug under this initiative since 2021 has a water conservation capacity of 1,28,100 litre per annum.

"We have renewed our MoU with BBMP and as per the agreement, we are supposed to dig 1,632 percolation pits between January and October. We have dug 162 wells in 26 parks and the remaining will be completed by October," said Radhakrishna Pradeep, lead, environment projects at United Way Bengaluru. Officials from BBMP's Horticulture Department say that the wells have improved groundwater tables in respective areas.

"We are digging recharge wells that are 40 feet deep and 5 feet in diameter. The idea is to catch rainwater and improve the groundwater table. While we do not have a quantitative estimate of improvement in the groundwater table, we have received positive feedback from residents living around parks with these wells," said Chandrashekar MR, deputy director of the Horticulture Department of BBMP.

'A great deal remains'

While the initiative is a step in the right direction, Bengaluru still needs to ensure sufficient groundwater recharge through recharge wells. According to a rough estimate, the total demand for freshwater in Bengaluru is 2,632 million litre a day (MLD).

Even if nearly 40% of this demand is met through groundwater, Bengaluru is extracting a little over 1,000 MLD. It shows that 4,239 recharge wells are a



Zone-wise Target for Recharge Pits

Zone	No. of Recharge Pits
South	164
Yelahanka	156
RR Nagar	512
West	320
East	300
Dasarahalli	200
Total	1,652

drop in the bucket.

According to Shubha Ramachandran, water team lead at Biome Environmental Trust, Bengaluru requires at least 10 lakh recharge wells to meet its current demand for fresh groundwater.

"We are extracting nearly 1,000 MLD of groundwater and this roughly shows that the city needs a million wells to put back in the amount of water we are extracting. Recharge wells can be created along all the stormwater drains, roads, metro lines, and private establishments. I would assume that 50 to 60% of the city's total geographical area is privately owned land. Thus, all privately owned land has to put in place systems for rainwater harvesting system. Public places such as bus stands, railway stations, railway tracks, parks, and roads should also have recharge wells," said Ramachandran.

Biome has so far dug nearly 2.5 lakh recharge wells in the city.

Plummeting level

According to an official, concretisation of the city has contributed to the dipping groundwater levels. "Bengaluru's landscape is dominated by asphalt and concrete, leaving little to no open soil. As a result, rainwater does not percolate into the ground, causing groundwater levels to deplete. Borewells across the city dry up during summer, intensifying the drinking water crisis. A study conducted by the Bangalore Water

Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) revealed that groundwater levels are expected to decline in 80 wards this summer."

Pit plan

Each of the pits is reinforced with concrete rings and filled with gravel to facilitate water absorption. Chandrashekar said geo-tagging is being implemented for each pit to monitor its impact. Groundwater levels around parks with recharge pits are being assessed before, during, and after rains.

An official said BBMP was prioritising the installation of recharge pits in 332 parks, with construction underway in 40 locations. Each pit has the capacity to collect up to 4,270 litre of rainwater per cycle. "With Bengaluru receiving rain for approximately 58-60 days annually, recharge pits are expected to fill up at least 30 times a year, significantly contributing to groundwater replenishment."

HC rejects plea on Hindus in Bangladesh

The Karnataka High Court has rejected a PIL seeking directions to the Union and State Governments regarding the protection of Hindus and other minority communities' lives, properties, and religious establishments in Bangladesh.

The petition referenced an article published in a Kannada newspaper, on August 13, 2024, discussing alleged communal tensions in Bangladesh. The petitioner requested the court to direct the Indian government to ensure the

safety of Hindu and other minority populations in Bangladesh.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice MI Arun stated, "Not only is the petition peculiarly vague, it is thoroughly misconceived and cannot be entertained in the public interest jurisdiction." The Bench concluded that the petition was inadmissible as it relied exclusively on a newspaper article, which was deemed insufficient grounds for judicial intervention.

—BMB

SC allows recruitment of 158 civil judges

During Tuesday's proceedings regarding unfilled positions in the district judiciary, the Supreme Court instructed the Karnataka High Court to continue recruiting 158 civil judges, disregarding the state government's circular that had suspended direct judicial appointments.

CJI Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan's bench learned that the Karnataka Government's circular dated November 15, 2024, had halted direct recruitment by modifying reservation rules under Karnataka Judicial

Service (Recruitment) (Amendment) Rules 2024.

The CJI specified in the ruling that the High Court should proceed with the selection process temporarily.

"Issue notice, and as an interim measure we direct that the process of direct recruitment of 158 civil judges in Karnataka shall continue notwithstanding the circular dated 15.11.24 issued by the State Government. This order is subject to the final outcome/decision on the application," the court said.

—BMB

BM WoW Wednesday

Your Chance to **WIN** today

Answer this question and give details below to win vouchers for Gypsy Tower, Koramangala – valid on food and drink*

In the music genre R&B what do R and B stand for?

Name: _____

Age: _____

Area: _____

Profession: _____

In your part of the city, what is an issue BM should cover

Scan this code to follow us on Insta and drop your responses there or whatsapp us at **9591233247**

(* Terms and Conditions apply)

Serial 2-wheeler thief arrested; 8 stolen vehicles recovered

A two-wheeler thief operating across the city and other parts of Karnataka was arrested by Bagalagunte Police, leading to the recovery of eight stolen vehicles worth Rs 4 lakh.

The investigation began on January 21, when a resident of Nagasandra filed a complaint after discovering their two-wheeler had been stolen overnight. Based on informer inputs and technical surveillance, police took a suspect into custody near the 8th Mile area on January

23. During interrogation, he confessed to stealing multiple two-wheelers across the city and other regions.

Further questioning led police to Ravindra Nagar, where eight stolen two-wheelers were found hidden.

The vehicles had been stolen from areas under the jurisdiction of Bagalagunte, Madiwala, Mahalakshmi Layout, Mysore Devaraja, and Chikkamagalur police stations. Authorities are now working to trace the owners of the remaining vehicles.

—BMB

Tractor thieves busted: Four arrested

A tractor theft racket spanning multiple areas of Bengaluru has been busted by the Konanakunte Police, leading to the arrest of four individuals and the recovery of four stolen tractors with trolleys worth ₹20 lakh.

The case unfolded when a resident of Jambusavari Dinne in JP Nagar 8th Phase filed a complaint on January 5, after discovering that his tractor, which was locked and parked outside his home, had vanished. The police launched an investigation, following multiple leads and informant tips.

Their breakthrough came on January 26 when two

suspects were nabbed near Kengunte Road, Nagarbhavi. Interrogation revealed that they were part of a larger gang, and another accomplice was still at large. Acting swiftly, the police apprehended the third accused on January 27 in Pillaganahalli. On January 30, the fourth suspect was caught red-handed near Tumkur Bus Stand while attempting to sell a stolen tractor.

Investigations have linked the gang to a series of tractor thefts across the city, with cases registered at Konanakunte, Puttenahalli, Talaghattapura, and Begur police stations.

—BMB

87,855 cancer cases in K'taka: Why early diagnosis matters

Experts stress early cancer detection, lifestyle changes, and better access to treatment as cases rise; awareness drives and screening camps are being conducted to promote prevention

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com

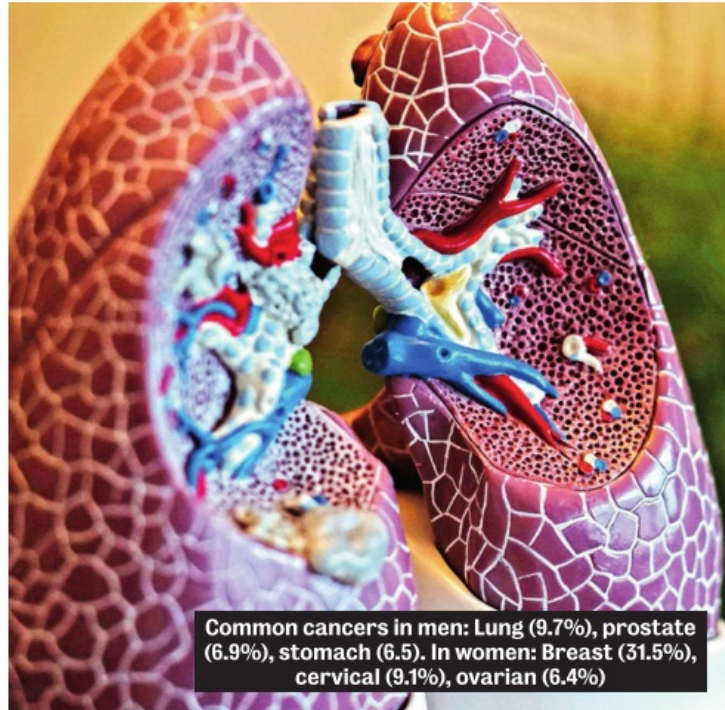
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With cancer cases remaining high in Karnataka, experts from the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO) emphasise early detection, lifestyle changes, and better access to treatment. World Cancer Day, observed on February 4 every year, serves as a global platform to raise awareness about cancer and advocate for better prevention and treatment.

The theme for World Cancer Day 2025-2027 is "United by Unique," which indicates collective efforts to make cancer care more patient-centric. The campaign states that everyone, from healthcare professionals to policymakers and individuals, has a role to play in improving access to cancer services. According to KMIO, Bengaluru records an estimated 6,880 new cancer cases among men and 8,723 cases among women annually. The most common cancers in men include lung (9.7%), prostate (6.9%), stomach (6.5%), and mouth (6.4%) cancer. Among women, breast (31.5%), cervical (9.1%), ovarian (6.4%), and mouth (4.3%) cancers are the most prevalent.

Bengaluru had a total cancer prevalence of 40,913 cases in 2024, with 3,826 deaths recorded due to cancer-related complications. The overall numbers for Karnataka are even more, with 87,855 new cancer cases, 2.37 lakh prevalent cases, and 26,516 deaths in 2024 alone.

According to doctors from KMIO



Alcohol consumption, lack of exercise and body hygiene, stress, junk food are modifiable risk factors for cancers – Dr Naveen BY, KMIO

over 60-70% of cancers can be cured if diagnosed early and treated optimally. However, more than 50% of cancer patients seek medical care at advanced stages, significantly reduc-

ing survival chances.

Dr Naveen Bhat Y, Administrator, KMIO said, "The rise in cancer cases and changing patterns can be linked to various risk factors, including the adoption of a Western lifestyle and tobacco use, which accounts for over one-third of cases. Avoiding pan masala, gutkha, supari, and tobacco helps prevent cancers of the mouth, throat, oesophagus, and stomach. Cessation of tobacco smoking reduces the chances of lung cancer. Alcohol consumption, late marriage, lack of exercise and body

hygiene, stress, junk food, preserved food (salted fish), long-term use of hormone tablets, and application of inorganic insecticides, pesticides and weedicides are the probable modifiable risk factors for cancers."

He noted that breast, blood, lung, and prostate cancers are among the most common cases seen at the hospital. "Nearly one-third of cancer-related deaths are due to tobacco and alcohol consumption. Raising awareness and adopting a healthy lifestyle can significantly reduce cancer cases," he said.

Awareness and detection initiatives in Karnataka

KMIO and other organisations have been actively conducting Cancer Detection Camps (CDC) across Karnataka, particularly in rural areas, to identify cancer cases at an early stage. Awareness programs are being conducted in schools, colleges, industries, and among the general public to educate people on the symptoms, risk factors, and prevention of cancer.

In 2024, KMIO registered 21,051 new cancer cases, while over 3.89 lakh cancer patients visited the institute for follow-up treatment. Most patients come from economically weaker backgrounds, highlighting the need for better access to affordable cancer care.

On Tuesday, KMIO organised a cancer awareness walkathon, from the hospital premises to Lalbagh, to spread awareness about the disease to over 500 participants, including doctors, students, and volunteers.

IN BRIEF

Protest against school closures

The All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) held a state-level protest convention in Bengaluru against the Karnataka government's decision to shut down 4,200 government schools due to low enrollment. Student leaders and activists condemned the move, calling it an attack on public education. AIDSO Central Council General Secretary Shibashish Praharaj criticised ruling parties for implementing policies that weaken public education. "Education is being turned into a business. If farmers', workers', and poor children's right to education is to be protected, we must build a strong movement to save government schools," he said.

AIDSO Karnataka Vice President, Chandrakala recalled how a massive movement had stopped a previous attempt by the BJP government to shut down 13,800 schools. "Students collected 36 lakh signatures to save schools. Now, the Congress government is closing 4,200 schools instead of addressing the real issues," she said. She highlighted that nearly 6,000 government schools in Karnataka have only one teacher, over 3,500 lack proper toilets, and 59,000 teaching positions remain vacant. "How can government schools survive in such conditions?" she questioned.

"If the government goes ahead with its plan to merge schools with low enrollment into nearby institutions under a hub-and-spoke model, it will lead to the closure of over 4,000 government schools in remote rural areas. No matter what name they give it, this is essentially shutting down government schools, then we strongly oppose it," said an AIDSO member. — BMB

Seniors' safety in disasters

The Department of Psychosocial Support in Disaster Management (PSSDM), NIMHANS, organised the National Workshop on "Fostering Care for Our Seniors: Practices in Extending Psychosocial Care for Older Adults During Disasters" held on February 3 & 4, in collaboration with the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) New Delhi.

Dr Subhasish Bhadra, Head of the Department of PSSDM mentioned the department is working for 'build-better-before' to facilitate disaster risk reduction (DRR) as per the PM-10 point agenda on DRR. In this workshop, 213 participants joined from 7 States from different backgrounds including medical professionals, retired volunteers, staff from civil society organisations, researchers, and students from the disciplines of social work, psychology, sociology, public health, nursing, and physiotherapy.

Dr K Sekar, former Senior Professor of Psychiatric Social Work, said, "India is continuously working to promote a culture of disaster safety at the institutions and communities. Engaging communities, volunteers, professionals, and academic research has been the priority for facilitating effective policy formulation and implementation to enhance the disaster resiliency of the nation." — BMB

Karnataka Kho-Kho association threatens rally over unmet demands

I Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka State Kho-Kho Association has warned of a protest rally on February 18 if the state government fails to address its long-pending demands.

"The kho-kho players and members of various associations across the state have already started writing letters to the Chief Minister and other authorities, urging them to meet our demands. Applications will be submitted to the Deputy Commissioners of respective districts and the district in-charge ministers on February 10. If the government does not respond, we will organise a rally from Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station to Freedom Park on February 18," said Karnataka State Kho-Kho Association President, Lokeshwara.

He stated that around 2,000 kho-kho players and members of various

associations are expected to participate in the rally. "Our main demand is that the state government should provide Rs 50 lakh in cash and an A or B-grade government job for the kho-kho players who won the World Cup. The government announced only Rs 5 lakh for each player, whereas other states are more generous, not only awarding higher cash prizes but also offering government jobs," he said.

Lokeshwara also accused the Karnataka Olympic Association (KOA) of creating hurdles for kho-kho associations in the state. "We have yet to receive funds for the four-year period from 2013 to 2017. We submitted bills, but the government has not taken steps to clear them. Moreover, we have not received any funds since 2018. We are demanding a revision of the sports policy, which currently requires the State Olympic Association's approval for allocating funds to the Karnataka State Kho-Kho Association," he added.



Among the association's other demands are: The government should accept applications directly from authorised sports associations for funding. All recognised associations should be affiliated with the Karnataka Olympic Association and should not face harassment. The government should order an inquiry into allegations against the Karnataka Olympic Association.

However, Karnataka Olympic Association president K Govindaraj dismissed these allegations, stating that the kho-kho association had never approached them for funds.

Our main demand is that state govt should provide ₹50 lakh and govt job for kho-kho players

– Lokeshwara, KSKKA

"We have not received any letter from the Karnataka State kho-kho association regarding funding. If they write to us, I am ready to ensure funds for them," he said.

Refuting Govindaraj's claim, Karnataka State Kho-Kho Association honorary secretary Mallikarjuniah R, stated that multiple letters had been sent to the KOA but were either ignored or returned. "I sent a letter to the Secretary General of the Karnataka Olympic Association on April 30, 2018, but it was returned as 'not claimed.' We also sent letters on November 30, 2018, December 22, 2018, and February 24, 2020, but all were returned as the addressee refused to receive them," he said.

Riders, stay off the footpath, or be ready to lose licence

Traffic police plan to recommend suspension/cancellation of licence in case of repeated offence

| Sanjana S
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Dodging traffic jams by zipping onto footpaths may have been a shortcut for impatient motorists, but Bengaluru Traffic Police are all set to slam the brakes on this reckless trend. In a crack-down aimed at reclaiming pedestrian spaces, traffic police have announced that offenders caught driving on footpaths will face hefty fines and suspension of their driver's licence. With complaints piling up from frustrated pedestrians and civic activists, the move signals a firm stance against footpath encroachment.

Previously, violators faced fines, but with many ignoring penalties and enforcement drives, stricter action has become necessary. This measure aims to curb the rising number of pedestrian accidents and fatalities, which, despite a 23.17% decline in deaths compared to 2023, remain alarmingly high. In 2024 alone, 233 fatal accidents have been reported. Determined to bring this number down further, traffic officials are ramping up enforcement, ensuring that sidewalks remain safe for pedestrians and not an escape route for impatient motorists.

"Repeated violations pose a serious threat to pedestrians using



Footpath riding puts many lives at risk

footpaths, endangering lives. If offenders continue such reckless behaviour, their licences will be suspended. If they are caught after that, their licences may be canceled. A recommendation will be made to the RTO for cancellation in case of repeated offenses. Any violation that endangers public safety will be dealt with strictly, as ensuring the safety of pedestrians and other road users remains a top priority," said Anitha B Haddannavar, DCP of West Division (Traffic).

Recently, a pedestrian was fatally struck by a container truck near Kamakshipalya bus stop early Friday morning. The truck, traveling from Sumanahalli to Housing Board Colony on Magadi Main Road, was reportedly being

Repeated violations pose a serious threat to pedestrians using footpaths, endangering lives

—Police

driven recklessly. Srinivasayya sustained severe head injuries and died on the spot. The driver fled the scene after the accident.

Traffic congestion is escalating daily, accompanied by a surge in traffic violations among motorists and riders. These infractions contribute to frequent accidents. To ensure a smoother traffic system and reduce accidents, strict enforcement

of traffic regulations is essential.

Licenses were already being canceled for offenses such as drunk driving, triple riding, and wheeling. However, to curb the issue of reckless driving on footpaths, immediate action will be taken under Section 20 and Section 184, along with Rule 21 of the Motor Vehicle Act. This enforcement will target individuals involved in reckless driving, wheeling, drag racing, or driving on footpaths, as such violations pose a serious threat to public safety.

Furthermore, all necessary reports, including those sent to the courts and RTOs, along with a weekly report on disqualified or suspended licences, will be submitted without fail to ensure strict monitoring and enforcement of traffic laws.

Ferrari, Porsche, among 30 luxury cars seized for 'tax evasion'

In a major Regional Transport Office operation, 30 luxury cars, including Ferrari and Porsche, were seized for alleged tax evasion in Bengaluru.

The seizure of luxury cars is done for non-payment of taxes by the owners, an RTO official said on Monday.

The seized vehicles were registered in different states but illegally driven in Karnataka.

This operation is expected to recover around Rs 3 crore in taxes. Luxury cars, including Maserati, Ferrari, Porsche, Range Rover, and BMW have been seized, the sources said.

These top-end cars were registered in states like Delhi, Puducherry, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand.

Seized vehicles were registered in different states but illegally driven in Karnataka; This operation is expected to recover around Rs 3 crore in taxes

The operation to seize the luxury cars was carried out on Sunday after gathering information about non-compliance of payment of required taxes for the luxury vehicles.

The RTO team was led by Transport Deputy Commissioner C. Mallikarjun and included 40 officers.

The sources said the owners avoid paying the taxes in Karnataka as the road tax in the state is one of the highest in the country.

While transferring the vehicle from other states to Karnataka, the tax is determined based on the seating capacity, cubic capacity of the engine, fuel type, cost and weight and usage purpose and date of manufacturing.

The Karnataka government has introduced an additional cess charge of Rs 1,000 for cars at the time of registration in December 2024.

Earlier, in August 2021, the Karnataka Transport Department seized seven luxury cars, including a Rolls-Royce, belonging to Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan.

However, later, it was found that the Bengaluru-based realtor, who had purchased the luxury car from Amitabh, had not got the registration of the vehicle transferred to his name.

The authorities had asked the present owner Babu to produce the necessary documents and get the vehicle released.

The Transport Department carried out a drive near the upscale UB City area in Bengaluru for not paying taxes, and not having proper documents and insurance.

—IANS

Inter-state thief linked to Bollywood actress arrested

Anotorious inter-state thief with connections to a Bollywood actress has been arrested by Madiwala police. The accused, identified as Panchakshari Sangaiah Swamy (37) from Solapur, Maharashtra, has been involved in over 150 theft cases across multiple states.

Swamy, who came from a respectable family background, took to crime at a young age. His father was a railway employee, and after his death, his mother secured a job in the railways. Despite this, Swamy turned to theft for financial gain, committing his first house-breaking crime as a minor in 2003 and becoming a professional thief in 2009.

His extravagant lifestyle was funded by his criminal activities. Though he lived in a 400-square-foot house, he gifted his girlfriend a bungalow worth 3 crore. His association with a Bollywood actress, despite his criminal record, has raised further questions.

Swamy was skilled in identifying locked houses and breaking in with his accomplices. To avoid suspicion, he would change clothes on the streets after committing the thefts. He also specialised in melting stolen gold to erase evidence. His long-standing criminal career saw him in and out of police custody across different states. Investigations are ongoing.

—BMB

Student's suicide may have been due to peer pressure

Police suspect an altercation with friends to be the cause of suicide by the Bangalore University student. Pavana HN, a 23-year-old second-year post-graduate student in Kannada studies, was found dead in her hostel room. Police suspect suicide, with initial reports suggesting that distress over an altercation with friends may have contributed to her act.

Pavana, who hails from H.D. Kote taluk, Mysuru, is said to have harboured dreams of becoming a Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS) officer. She had been diligently balancing her university studies with coaching for the competitive exams. Her parents, daily

wage labourers, had taken loans to fund her education, hoping to see her succeed. Having already attempted the KAS exam, she was anxiously awaiting her results.

According to police sources, her fellow hostel residents discovered her body around noon and alerted authorities. The Jnanabharathi police and forensic teams arrived at the scene and launched an investigation.

While her suicide note did not name anyone specifically, it mentioned distress caused by friends, prompting authorities to question her peers. Police continue their investigation to piece together the circumstances leading to her untimely death.

—BMB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in November 2024, but students cannot interact with instructors as the sessions are one-way. Even when students post questions online, they do not receive responses. Moreover, there is a shortage of study material, making it difficult for students to follow along."

Coaching or movie screening?

Experts suggest that instead of forcing students to attend coaching

Students complain about chaotic schedules

sessions in classrooms, they should be allowed to log in using their SAT IDs and access the classes from home or during their free time. This would allow them to listen to lectures at their own pace and clarify doubts with their teachers. "Currently, CET coaching is being conducted alongside board exam preparations, creating additional pressure on students. Experts recommend conducting intensive 10-15 day CET coaching

after the annual board exams, allowing interested students to make better use of the training. Forcing students to attend CET classes before board exams could negatively impact their board performance," said a student.

Clashing exams

Students alleged that PU II students are currently taking their preparatory exams, but they are expected to attend CET coaching before

appearing for their board exam papers. The misalignment of subjects is also causing problems. For instance, a student might attend a biology CET class in the morning and then have to appear for a mathematics exam later that day. "Since clearing the PU II board exam is crucial for CET eligibility, students, parents, and lecturers are urging the government to prioritise board exam preparation over CET coaching. Lecturers also question why

CET coaching is being made mandatory for all students, including those who may not be interested in taking the exam," said another student.

Reacting to this, an education department official said, "The department is taking steps to conduct coaching without disrupting regular classes. This programme will become even more effective in the coming years." Ningegowda AH, state president, PU Lecturers' Association, added if students were allowed to log in and attend at their convenience, it would be more effective.

Your Connect

real estate

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

PLUG AND PLAY 8000 sq ft earlier occupied by IT TECH on GRAPHITE INDIA Main road HOODY. For more details Call - 98450 01628, 74834 45170.

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

ACADEMIC

GENERAL

SHANTHINIKETHANA ENGLISH SCHOOL-GIRINAGAR REQUIRES TEACHERS EXPERIENCED / TRAINED FRESHERS OF AGE: <40YRS
1) PRINCIPAL / VICE PRINCIPAL / ACADEMIC HEAD / COORDINATOR - FEMALE Candidates with of Minimum 4 Years of Leadership Experience, Post Graduate with B.Ed 2) Primary & High school female teachers for subjects: Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, English, Social Studies, EVS and Hindi. Qualification: Graduate with B.Ed / D.Ed 3) CURRICULAR TEACHERS, ART & CRAFT, LIBRARIAN, MUSIC, YOGA, P.E (Female only) WALK-IN-INTERVIEW: Between 05-02-2025 to 09-02-2025 Timings: 10:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M. Salary is not a constraint for the deserving candidates. Submit resume with recent photograph: SHANTHINIKETHANA SCHOOL, 1341/A, 8-C Cross, 8th Main Girinagar 2nd Phase, Bengaluru-85 Phone: +9176760 68929 / 7760202693 / 080-26721334 / 080-26420794 Email: hrdsmps@gmail.com; www.shanthinikethana.com.

ADELIE INTERNATIONAL PRESCHOOL -GIRINAGAR, Asia's largest unique premium Preschool Requires: PRE-PRIMARY TEACHERS: Young & Dynamic, Fluent in English, any degree with NTT / MTT / ECCE. OTHERS: RECEPTIONIST, ART & CRAFT DATE: WALK-IN BETWEEN: Between 05-02-2025 to 09-02-2025 Timings: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Salary is not a constraint for the deserving candidates. Submit resume with recent photograph: ADELIE INTERNATIONAL PRESCHOOL, # 4263, Opp Swami Vivekananda Circle, Girinagar, Bengaluru-85. Phone: +919845030600 / 9591622353 / 080-26420796 / 080-26724522. Email: hrdsmps@gmail.com; www.adelieinternational.com

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Times Of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and Owners of The Times Of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

TEACHER

TEACHERS WANTED

SFS HIGH SCHOOL, MALUR
SFS SCHOOL (CBSE), MALUR
(Near Bengaluru; run by MSFS Fathers)
TGTs are needed to teach English, Mathematics, Science, Hindi, Computer Science and Social Science at the secondary, upper primary, and lower primary levels. Montessori-trained NTTC teachers are also needed for Kindergarten. Fluency in English is a prerequisite for all positions.

Free boarding and lodging or pick-up and drop-off from Electronic City available, along with an attractive salary.

Apply with a photograph and biodata within 7 days to
sfsschoolmalur24@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNTANT

WANTED Qualified & Exp Accountant for a Reputed Firm in Domlur. Well versed in Tally, GST, & TDS Compliance with Exp of 7 - 10 yrs. Freshly Qualified CA will be Considered. Call : 9845759246. Mail : info@pluanshe.com

ADMINISTRATION

MANAGERS

Employment

Opportunity for Retired, VRS NRI's, Self Employed, Teachers & Homemakers.
Fixed Pay & Incentives.
8660473849 / 7975093296

WANTED-SENIOR Managers & Accounts for a Chain of Restaurants at Bangalore. Send Resume by what's up : 98806 60665

BY QUALIFICATIONS

DIPLOMA HOLDERS

WALK-IN Interview Sunikh Components Pvt Ltd For ITI/ Diploma/ Engineering (Only Mechanical) on 09.02.2025. 9880611961 / 7738853245. hr.sunikh@gmail.com

MARKETING, ADVERTISING & SALES

Tele Caller

REQUIRED Fresh or Experienced Tele Callers & Field Executive for Banking Collection and Verification Process. Salary+Incentives. Call: 99726 29990, 86602 68963, 78294 30620.

SALES MANAGER

Vibez Estates

HIRING Real Estate Sales Manager!

► Graduates with Excellent English Communication
► Experience with any Sales domain Males / Females
► Salary ₹25,000
► Job Location Bangalore / CBI Main Road/Ganganagar

Send resume:
vinutha.y@vibezestates.com
97433 46573

OTHER VACANCIES

DRIVERS

REQUIRED Personal high-end Car Driver with 3 years experience located around JP Nagar Bangalore Mob 9341683838

MULTIPLE VACANCIES

Madhu Infotech

Office Administrator
Min 2 yrs exp in handling office infrastructure & maintenance & handling house keeping team. Preferably from Facility Management.

Asst. Manager Business Relations
Min 5 yrs exp. In selling IT products and services sales can apply Sal. Min 15 L + incentives.

Sr.Accountant / Credit Controller
Min 10 yr exp in controlling credit and in accounts aged above 45 less than 60
Mail your resume to mail@madhuinfotech.com 9986360606

NewAge WORLD SCHOOL
Mylappanahalli, Near Yelahanka RTO, North Bengaluru - 560 089

HIRING

dedicated & passionate individuals for
NewAge Learning Academy

► **Tele callers & Admission Officer**
► **Teachers & Mentors**

Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics for IIT, JEE & NEET & other foundation courses

Location: **YELAHANKA NEW TOWN**
Qualification: Master's degree and prior teaching experience for competitive exams

Preschool Teachers:
Location: **Yelahanka, Nagenahalli, R T Nagar**
Graduate with MTT/NTT, Exp: 3 to 5 years
Salary **25k to 30k** per month

send your CV to :
careers@newageworldschool.com
76194 82072

WANTED

KP Group immediate Job Openings
Accountant -02
4-5 Yr. Exp with In-depth knowledge of Tally, GST, TDS.

Junior Accountant -02
1-2 Yr. Exp in Accounts with knowledge of Tally & GST.

Export / Import Executive -02
3-4 Yr. Exp in Export & Import Documentation with customs knowledge preferred.

Data Entry Operator / Office Assistant -05
2-3 Yr. Exp of Data Entry in Word & Excel, PPT

Facilities Supervisor -02
2-3 Yr. Exp in Facilities Mgmt.

Site Supervisor (Civil) -03
3-5 Yr Exp in Civil handling projects from Earth Work to Finishing stage, independently preferred.

Site Supervisor (Interior) -02
3-5 Yr. Exp in Interiors, handling projects independently preferred.

Drivers - 02
Minimum 7-10 yr exp in driving automatic Luxury Cars with basic English, Kannada, Google map staying close to Indiranagar.

Walk-in for Interview along with resume from 5th-8th Feb between 10AM - 5PM.
K.P. Group
777-A, K.P. Tower, 5 Floor, 100ft Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore-08
M: 9535188899

SMARA CURATIONS
Crafting Memories

REQUIRES

Purchase Manager
Min 5 years exp. In purchasing Gifting products with great negotiation skills

Price Controller
Min 10 year exp in sales and responsible for companies P&L

Mail your resume to mail@smaracurations.com
Call : 9886222206

STOLT
REQUIRES

Key Account Managers

Min 4 years exp. In selling any gifting products
Sal. Min 10 L + incentives

Inside Sales Representative
Min 2 year exp in handling customers by sending quotes, taking order etc.

Mail your resume to mail@stolt.in
9743711011

WORK FROM HOME

EXCLNT Opportunity to WFH & Earn upto 60k-1L*per month* exlv for Retd/VRS, H/M, CA'S. Business officials More details Contact: 9790796153 / 7795606685

JOB WANTED

Join **CHARIGAN GROUP**
A Leading Real Estate Company!

We're HIRING

► Business Development Executives
► Tele Sales Executive

Eligibility:
Candidates with a min 2 yrs of exp. OR Freshers with enthusiasm, a positive attitude, and a strong willingness to learn
Work Location: **Yelahanka**

If you are interested
9900823104.
Charigan Group
Building Dreams, Creating Value

auto

PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

MAHINDRA

SALE Mint Condition MAHINDRA THAR 4x4 2022 Diesel automatic Hard Top Driven 33K kms Black Colour. Contact: 9945004494

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Rangaswamy Venkataramaiah S/o Y.V. Rangaswamy Residing At, No 28, Amaranth Nilaya, Makkala Basavanna Temple Street, Ramannapetejuma Masjid Road Cross Bengaluru 560002 have changed my name to Yennegere Rangaswamy Venkata Ramaiah For All Purposes.

I, Shivakumar Byalakere Jayanna R/o No.52/2, 2nd main, NGEF layout, 2nd main road, Bengaluru 560094 have changed my name to Shivakumar Jayanna Affidavit Dt.04/02/2025 notary Harisha G, Bluru

I, VISWANATH S S/O SURESH KUMAR, R/o No A1 001 Mahendra Aarna Ananth Nagar Electronics City Bangalore-560100. I have changed my name to LUCIAN FREEWILL vide affidavit dated: 31/01/2025 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore.

I, BHARATH B. S/o Balakrishna A. residing at No.87, 1st Floor, 1st Main. Lakshman Layout, Royal County, 8th Phase, JP Nagar Bangalore-560083 have changed my name to BHARATH BALAKRISHNA. vide affidavit dated: 03.Feb.2025 before notary Aravind Patil, Bangalore.

I, Samskar Byrappagary R/o Flat.B-305, Akul Residency Kachamaranahalli, Gunjur, Bengaluru 560087 have changed my name to Samskar Byrappagari Affidavit Dt.04/02/2025 notary Harisha G, Bluru

I, RITA NANCY, W/o Amit Antony Clement, residing at No.11, Vijaya Nilaya, 6th Cross, Ramaiah Road, Ejipura, Bangalore-560047 have changed my name to RITA NANCY AMIT, affidavit dt: 03.02.2025 before notary KV Mani, B.lore.

I, Swarnalatha Ponaka Reddy R/a P No.39, Adarsh Serenity, Kannamangala, Lane No.30, Bengaluru-560067. Have Changed to SWARNALATHA KOTHANDARAM REDDY. Vide Afft Dt: 04.02.2025. Sworn Before Notary: Devaraju E.

I, Nagesh Telagana S/o Rambabu R/o #329 CSA HISC bangalore-560012 have changed my name to Nagesh Talagani.

I, Shivakumara Venkatanaik s/o Venkatanaik R/at # 4343, 1st Floor, 2nd cross, 14th main road, Subramanyanagar, Bengaluru 560021 have changed my name to Shivakumar Venkatanaik, for all purposes

I, Farhat Banu I, D/o, Subhan Inayathulla R/o Arsh Cottage ,81/b, 17th 'E' Main ,6th Block ,koramangala , Bangalore 560095 have changed my name to Farhat Bano I ,for all purposes.

I MOHAMED YUNUS S/o Abdul Haka R/o No 69 1st Cross Vinayakanagar Old Guddadahalli Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to MOHAMMED YUNUS for all Purposes

I, Anitha K R/a No.13 Manjunath Layout Nanjappa Block, R T Nagar, Bengaluru-560032. Have changed to AADHIKA K. V. Afft Dt: 04.02.2025. Sworn Before Notary: Devaraju E.

I, Sankhya D/o Deepak Hegde R/o #93 Agara Main Rd Aishwarya layout Tataguni B'lore-560082 have changed my name to Sankhya Hegde.

I, Babu Mahaboob Saab S/o Mohammed Peer R/o #209/A, 4th Main Minaj Nagar JP Nagar B'lore-560078 have changed my name to Babu.

I, Mahaboob Saab R/o #209/A, 4th Main Minaj Nagar JP Nagar B'lore-560078 have changed my name to Mohammed Peer.

GET NOTICED

Poornaprajna Education Centre

(Promoted and Managed by Udupi Sri Adamaru Matha Education Council)
Affiliated to CBSE, aff. No. 831435.
Sadashivanagar, Bangalore - 560080

Established in 1969, PPEC has been successfully pursuing excellent education for 55 years

We are looking for strong, innovative, driven individuals to deliver the best in quality education across all grades for the subjects -

English, Math, Computer, Social Science, Physical Education, Librarian

Hiring Teachers

All candidates with a B.Ed. degree can apply

Send your CV at: ssng.careers@ppec.edu.in

Walk-in Interview:

10th, 11th, 12th & 13th Feb 2025
4:00 PM to 5:30 PM



WHY ARE RUBIES RED, EMERALDS GREEN?

Their colours come from the same metal in their atomic structure

The colours of rubies and emeralds are so striking that they define shades of red and green – ruby red and emerald green. But have you ever wondered how they get those colors?

I am an inorganic chemist. Researchers in my field work to understand the chemistry of all the elements that make up the periodic table. Many inorganic chemists focus on the transition metals – the elements in the middle of the periodic table. The transition metals include most of the metals you are familiar with, like iron (Fe) and gold (Au).

One feature of compounds made with transition metals is their intense colour. There are many examples in nature, including gemstones and paint pigments. Even the colour of blood comes from the protein haemoglobin, which contains iron.

Investigating the colours of

compounds containing transition metals leads you into some really amazing science – that's part of what drew me to study this field.

Rubies and emeralds are great examples of how a small amount of a transition metal – in this case, chromium – can create a beautiful colour in what would otherwise be a fairly boring-looking mineral.

Minerals and crystals

Both rubies and emeralds are minerals, which is a type of rock with a consistent chemical composition and a highly ordered structure at the atomic level.

When this highly ordered structure extends in all three dimensions, the mineral becomes a crystal.

With a theory developed by physicists in the 1920s called crystal field theory, scientists can explain why rubies and emeralds have the colors they do. Crystal field theory makes predictions

about how a transition metal ion's structure is affected by the other atoms surrounding it.

Rubies are mainly made up of the mineral corundum, which is composed of the elements aluminum and oxygen in a regular, repeating array. Each aluminum ion is surrounded by six oxygen ions.

Emeralds are mainly made up of the mineral beryl, which is made from the elements beryllium, aluminum, silicon and oxygen. Beryl's crystal structure is more complicated than corundum's because of the additional elements in the formula, but each aluminum ion is again surrounded by six oxygen ions.

Pure corundum and beryl are colorless. The brilliant colors of rubies and emeralds come from the presence of very small amounts of chromium. The chromium replaces about 1% of the aluminum in the corundum

or beryl crystal when a ruby or emerald forms underground at a high temperature and pressure.

But how can one element – chromium – create the red color of a ruby and green colour of an emerald?

Colour science

Rubies and emeralds have the colors they do because, like many substances, they absorb some colours of light. Most visible light, like sunlight, is composed of all the colours of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. These colors make up the visible light spectrum, which is easy to remember as ROY G BIV.

One of the main reasons why objects have a color is because they absorb one or more of these visible colors of light. If a substance absorbs, for instance, red light, it means that the red light gets trapped in the substance and the other colors reflect back to your eyes. The color you see is the sum of the remaining light, which will be in the green-to-blue range. If a substance absorbs blue, it will look red or orange to you.

Unlike the colourless aluminum ion, the chromium ion absorbs blue and green light when surrounded by the oxygen ions. The red light is reflected back, so that's what you see in rubies.

In an emerald, even though the chromium is surrounded by six oxygen ions, there is a weaker interaction between the chromium and the surrounding oxygen ions. That's due to the presence of silicon and beryllium in the beryl crystal. They cause the emerald to absorb blue and red light, leaving the green for you to see.

The ability to tune the properties of transition metals like chromium through changing what is surrounding it is a core strategy in my field of inorganic chemistry. Doing so can help scientists understand the basic science of metal-containing compounds and the design of chemical compounds for specific purposes.

You can take delight in the amazing colors of the gemstones, but through chemistry, you can also see how nature creates those colors using an endless variety of complex structures made with the elements in the periodic table.'

(Daniel Freedman, University of Wisconsin-Stout)

MIND, BODY & HEART



All you need to know about...

Face serums

What are they?

Face serums are lightweight, fast-absorbing formulas packed with concentrated nutrients that penetrate deep into your skin and they are absolutely integral for your skincare routine.

Targets specific issues

One of the major benefits of face serums is their ability to target specific skin concerns. Unlike regular products, they contain carefully selected ingredients that effectively address particular issues.

Types

For fine lines and wrinkles, a retinol serum for the face benefits their appearance over time. Acne-prone skin benefits from serums with salicylic acid or benzoyl peroxide, which clear up blemishes and control excess oil. If dull or uneven skin is your concern, vitamin C serum can brighten, even out skin tone, and protect against environmental damage.

Provides intense hydration

Many serums contain hydrating ingredients like hyaluronic acid that help lock moisture into your skin. If you have dry or dehydrated skin, these humectant-rich serums are perfect for restoring a soft, glowing complexion. By deeply hydrating, they prevent dryness and flakiness, keeping your skin looking plump and healthy.

Increases absorption of other products

Using a serum before your moisturiser helps your skin absorb the products that follow more effectively. Thanks to their light, watery texture, serums allow active ingredients to penetrate deeply, so your skin can fully benefit from the nutrients in your moisturizer or treatment creams.

Fights signs of aging

Serums with anti-aging ingredients like retinol or vitamin C help minimise wrinkles, fine lines, and other visible signs of aging. Retinol boosts collagen production to reveal brighter, smoother skin over time. Vitamin C can neutralise free radicals that damage skin cells and cause premature aging.

—Femina



MIRRORLIGHTS

Lung cancer cases in never-smokers on the rise, air pollution could be driver: Lancet study

Cases of lung cancer among those who never smoked is on the rise and air pollution could be contributing to the increase, according to a new study. The study was published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine journal on World Cancer Day on Tuesday.

Researchers, including those from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), World Health Organization, analysed data, including those from the Global Cancer Observatory 2022

dataset, to estimate national-level lung cancer cases for four subtypes -- adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, small- and large-cell carcinoma.

They found that adenocarcinoma -- a cancer that starts in glands that produce fluids such as mucus and digestive ones -- has become the dominant subtype among both men and women.

The sub-type of lung cancer was also found to account for 53-70% of lung cancer cases in 2022

among never-smokers around the world. Compared to the other sub-types of lung cancer, risk of adenocarcinoma is considered to be weakly related with cigarette smoking, the authors explained.

"As smoking prevalence continues to decline in many countries worldwide, the proportion of lung cancer in people who have never smoked has increased," they wrote. "Changes in smoking patterns and exposure to air pollution are among the main determinants of the

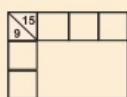
changing risk profile of lung cancer incidence by subtype that we see today," lead author Freddie Bray, IARC, said. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths.

However, "lung cancer in people who have never smoked is estimated to be the fifth leading cause of cancer-related mortality worldwide, occurring almost exclusively as adenocarcinoma and most commonly in women and Asian populations," the authors wrote.

—PTI

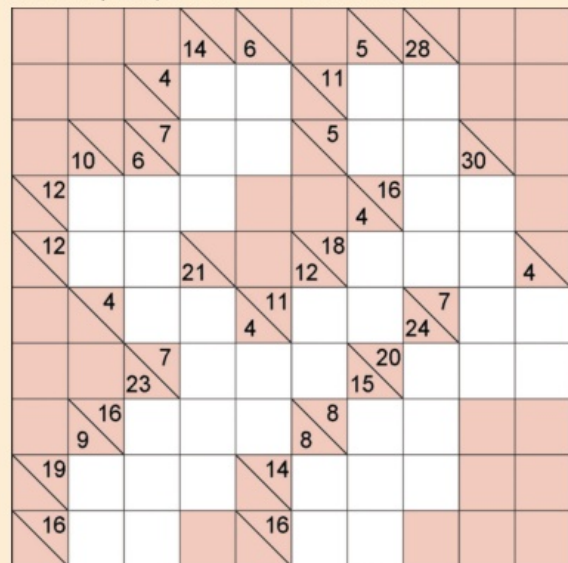
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

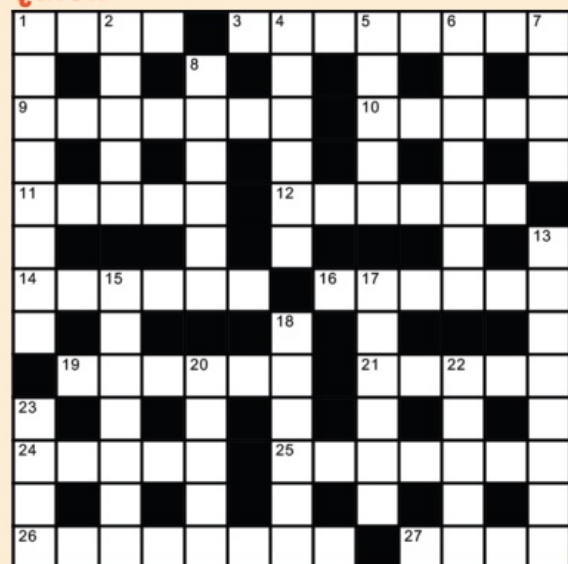


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Counterfeit (4)
- 3 Obtains or acquires (8)
- 9 Jayachamaraja Wodeyar _____: Last king of Mysore and first Governor of Karnataka (7)
- 10 A flock of birds (5)
- 11 Fabricating (5)
- 12 Hot beverage server (6)
- 14 Lift off the sharp bent line (6)
- 16 Type of sheep (6)
- 19 Give or bestow; divulge (6)
- 21 Refute (5)
- 24 Nymph of Muslim paradise (5)
- 25 Old measure of liquid (7)
- 26 Pay out (8)
- 27 Sums (4)

DOWN

- 1 Wonderful (8)
- 2 Batsman Virat _____ (5)
- 4 Something seldom seen (6)
- 5 Hot drink (5)
- 6 Pasta squares (7)
- 7 Answers or tells? (4)
- 8 Leisurely, musically speaking (6)
- 13 Competitions (8)
- 15 Gratifies by complying (7)
- 17 Spookily (6)
- 18 Degrees or phases (6)
- 20 Goodbye (5)
- 22 The vital fluid (5)
- 23 Wearing shoes? (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS S
TQWUZQ QPQZKRJBDF QANQ,
FORRBDF ZQIVK BN RJQ
NQEZQR UW NSEEQNN.



Linemaro

You are the one whose name I plan to get a tattoo of



Mindchow

Absence diminishes little passions and increases great ones, as wind extinguishes candles and fans a fire



Joke of the day

Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field!

Loop

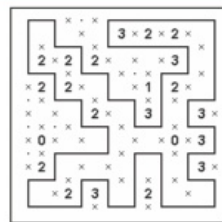
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

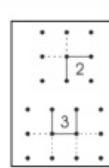
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

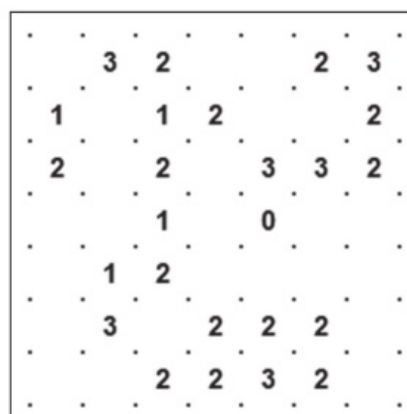
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



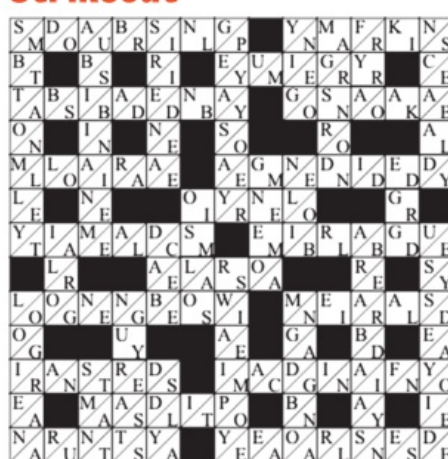
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



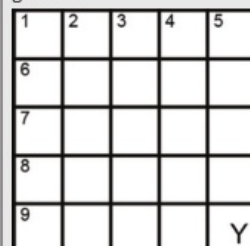
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

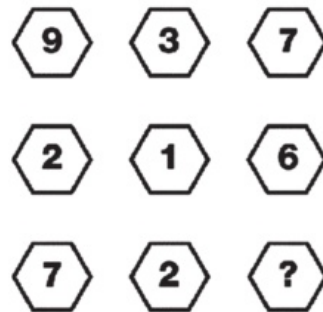
- 1 Stops; 6 Eery I;
- 7 Leapt; 8 Noted;
- 9 Rangy

DOWN

- 1 Paste; 2 No ply;
- 3 Organ; 4 Titre;
- 5 E dyes

Mensapuzzle

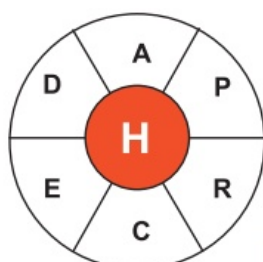
What is missing from the last hexagon?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

19 Average; 21 Good; 23 Outstanding



SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

□ □ □ □ □ = 20

1 3 8 8

Medium

□ □ □ □ □ = 1

9 9 8 7

Hard

□ □ □ □ □ = 62

2 8 8 7

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Tree limb is moved. 2. Hair is longer. 3. Line is added to sidewalk. 4. Stitching is added to backpack. 5. Cap is larger. 6. Fence is added.

Riddler

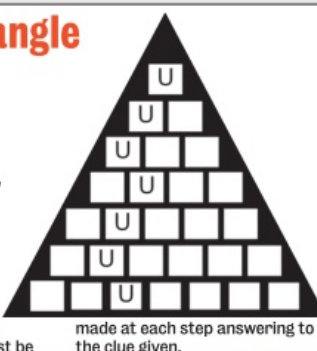
The name GEORGe mIchAel has the state GEORGIA hidden inside it, in order from left to right.

Can you find the states hidden in each of the following? 1. Mustache 2. Max Steiner 3. George Harrison 4. That's The Way It Is

Alpha triangle

- 1 Horseshoe letter
- 2 _____ and them
- 3 Application
- 4 Took to court
- 5 Buggy places?
- 6 Without warning
- 7 _____ off : spoke freely

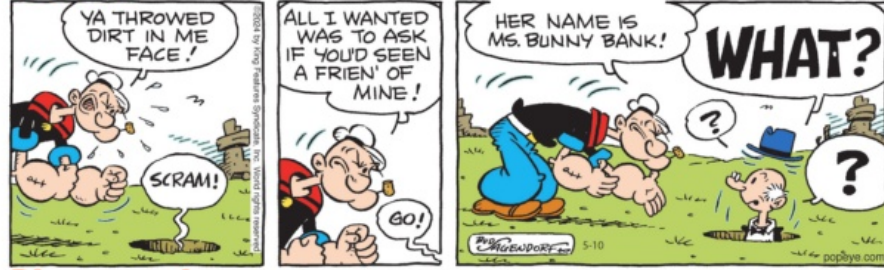
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, you may feel enthusiastic, and your focus on your goals may be strong. You may easily achieve your targets. Short work-related trips are likely, which could bring benefits in the near future. Your subordinate staff may support you in completing an important project. However, disputes with siblings may arise.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, you may experience peace of mind. Your earnings could improve your financial health. Romantic moments with your spouse may enhance harmony in family life. Singles are likely to find a suitable match. You may expect ample opportunities at work and notice some progress in your life.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, you are blessed by the Moon and may be able to make quick decisions in your professional life. New business opportunities could arise, boosting your confidence. You may start an innovative project with your business partner, leading to potential growth in the near future.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today, you are blessed by the Moon. You may plan to invest more capital in the family business, which could lead to its growth in the near future. You might receive rewards for your social services. Additionally, you may hear good news within your family, creating a joyful atmosphere. You are also likely to enjoy some delicious food.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today, you may be able to implement your plans successfully with the help of a strong network at work. Your hard work may lead to a significant business order. There will be good understanding between you and your spouse, increasing harmony in your domestic life. Your boss may appreciate your efforts.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today, you are blessed by the positive influence of the Moon. You may feel healthy, and chronic health issues might be cured. Your child's health may also improve. Any money that was stuck may be recovered, and you might be able to repay your debts.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today, you may feel happy, and your health will be good, giving you inner strength and self-confidence. Your subconscious mind may not allow you to engage in messy tasks. Your social prestige is likely to increase. With the support of your good karma, destiny may help you start an innovative project.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, you are blessed by the Moon. The messy situations of the past few days are now under control. You may resume your postponed tasks. With blessings, you may be rewarded for your hard work. There may be financial gains in your business, boosting your financial health. You might also receive an unexpected opportunity that enhances your business or career. An overseas trip could be on the horizon.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, you are blessed by the Moon, bringing peace of mind. You may become more decisive and seize opportunities without hesitation. Past karma may help you navigate challenging situations and guide you on the right path. Lovebirds will likely enjoy happy moments. Job seekers may find a suitable position with the help of friends.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today, you may feel unhappy and disappointed. It is advised that you control your arrogance; otherwise, you may suffer losses due to harsh speech when communicating with others. Avoid long trips and reckless driving. Additionally, it would be best to stay away from bay areas or oceans.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, you may not feel well and could face health issues that affect both your professional and domestic life. You may be upset due to your spouse's health problems. Your patience might be tested repeatedly. It is advised not to invest in new business projects, as you may suffer losses. Students should avoid distractions and focus on their studies.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today, you may feel dull. Detachment from responsibilities could make you upset. You may struggle to fulfill your commitments, which might affect your reputation. Arrogance could create issues in both your professional and personal life. Internally, you may feel a lack of confidence, preventing you from being creative at work.



KIDZONE



Sanjanna, Bengaluru

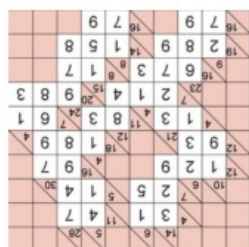


Akhilesh, Bengaluru

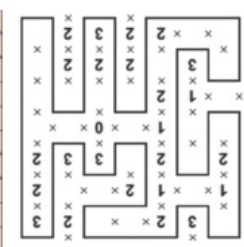
Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;

Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

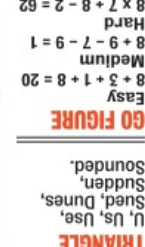
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



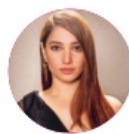
QUICK



STRIKE OUT



RIDDLE



Transformed— Tamannaah Bhatia recalled a tough moment that transformed her, "Something bad happened. My eyes were welling up — but I was playing a character. So, I told myself, 'This is just one feeling, and I can turn it into whatever I want'".



I am God poster is out

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah unveiled the poster and title of the movie — I am God — in Mysuru recently. Ravi Gowda, the son of C Basave Gowda, former chairman of Mysuru Urban Development Authority, debuts as a director in Sandalwood with this film.

Siddaramaiah said that Basave Gowda was a close friend of his. "I did not imagine Ravi Gowda would act in movies or direct a movie.



Anyone can bankroll movies provided he has sufficient money but it is not easy to become an actor. I wish Ravi Gowda all the best and hope he directs and acts in more movies. I will definitely watch the movie I am God when it is released at theat-

ers," Siddaramaiah said. Ravi debuted as an actor with Kannada movie Dwaja. Now, he has taken up three responsibilities — hero, director, and producer — for I am God. The shooting of the movie was held in Bengaluru and Kerala. Post-production works are in progress for the movie being bankrolled under the CBG Productions banner. Ajaneesh Lokanath of Kantara fame has scored its music while Ravi Varma has directed the action scenes, Jatin Das has worked behind the camera and Suresh Armugam is the editor.

Sidlingu 2 on Feb 14

The team of Sidlingu 2 released the song — Katheyondu — at an orphanage near Nagadevanahalli on Saturday. The song was written by lyricist Arasu Anthare. Anoop Seelin has scored its music and sung the song. Yogi and Sonu Gowda are the lead pair in the movie scheduled to release on February 14.

Vijaya Prasad, known for helming Sidlingu and Neer Dose, is the director for this movie.

Yogi said the movie's muhurat function was held at a temple last year and now its song was released in the presence of orphans. "The movie has turned out well. We are excited to watch it at the theater. All of us have struggled a lot during the shooting. I appreciate pro-



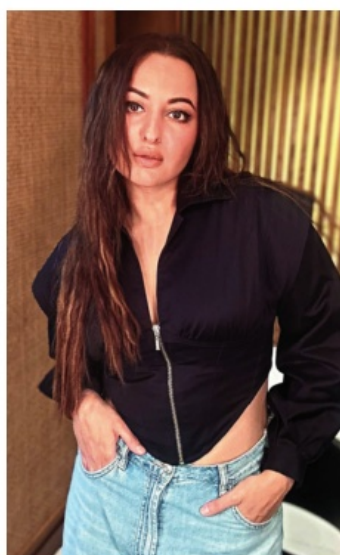
ducers Hari and Raju for their cooperation. I thank God for providing an opportunity for me to act under the director Vijaya Prasad. I quarreled with the director on many occasions during the shooting but I am very happy to work under him," said Yogi.

Sonu Gowda said she was comfortable during the shooting of the movie. "There was a competition between Yogi and me. It was challenging for me to act as per director's expectations," she said.

Sona sells her Mumbai flat

Sonakshi Sinha tied the knot with Zaheer Iqbal last year in June. But soon, reports suggested that she's planning to sell the house where she got married. The actress had reportedly bought the apartment a few years ago and had even said in an interview that it was like her chill pad, even before she got married. She had said that while she lived with her parents, this house was like a place where she could have her work meetings and also chill with friends.

However, after she got married, reports suggested that she is selling this house and is now planning to move into a new apartment. It is now known that Sonakshi has sold her apartment at Rs 22 crore, as examined by Square Yards on the Maharashtra Inspector General of Registration (IGR) website. Based on IGR documents, Sonakshi's apartment's carpet area was approximately 4,211 sq ft and it included three parking spaces. The transaction required a stamp duty of Rs 1.35 crore and a registration fee of Rs 30,000. Thus with the apartment being sold at Rs 22 crore, it shows



that the value of the house was increased by 61 percent in the last 5 years.

ETimes had earlier quoted a source close to the actor, who revealed why the celebrity home was on the market. The source said the reason behind Sonakshi's decision was linked to Zaheer, who hails from a family that has a construction business. — ETimes

FITNESS GOALS

Ananya Panday excels in Megaformer class

Bollywood actress Ananya Panday, known for her dedication to fitness, has recently added a new challenge to her workout routine.

The actress excelled in her first-ever Megaformer class, a high-intensity workout that is known for its combination of Pilates, strength training, and cardio. For the unversed, a Megaformer class is a high-intensity, low-impact workout that utilizes the Megaformer machine to tone and strengthen the body. The Megaformer is a key piece of equipment used in Lagree Fitness classes, designed to enhance strength, flexibility, and endurance.

It targets the entire body with a focus on strength, flexibility, and endurance. The Megaformer class is popular among fitness enthusiasts for its intense and effective training regimen. Ananya reposted a photo shared by her fitness coach Namrata Purohit on her Instagram stories. The fitness coach posted a photo of the actress and wrote, "@ananyapanday's first megaformer class, and she found it very fun and easy. Right, Ananya?."

Resharing the post, the 'Student of the Year 2' actress wrote, "Mega tough."

Yesterday, the 'Call Me Bae' actress shared a sneak peek into her Trataka meditation, a practice that involves staring at a single point or object to achieve a state of deep meditation.

In the image, the actress was seen staring at a lit candle placed on a table in a corner of a dark room. The caption of the photo read, "Ananya Panday practicing #Trataka meditation. Focus, stillness, clarity."

Work-wise, Panday made her Bollywood debut in 2019 with Karan Johar's "Student of the Year 2." Recently, she was seen in the OTT series "Call Me Bae" and "CTRL." Next, Ananya will be starring in the romantic film "Chand Mera Dil," where she will share the screen with Lakshya Lalwani, who gained attention with his debut film "Kill."

— IANS



Wedding celebrations

Priyanka Chopra gave fans a sneak peek into her home as the wedding celebration of her brother, Siddharth Chopra, is set to begin.

Taking to her Instagram on Monday evening, the 'Barfi' actress shared a series of pictures where she can be seen enjoying dance rehearsals for her brother's sangeet ceremony.

In one picture, PeeCee is seen sitting at the dining table with her mother-in-law, Denise Miller-Jonas, and father-in-law, Kevin Jonas Sr. Her daughter, Malti Marie Jonas, is also soaking in the celebrations. One picture shows her happily drawing with other kids, while another shows her enjoying the beach outside their Mumbai residence.

Along with the pictures, the actress added a caption that read, "Shaadi ka ghar...!! And it begins tomorrow (red heart emoji) mere bhai ki shaadi hai (It's my brother's wedding) @siddharth-



chopra89 with @neelamupadhyaya!! Sangeet practice to fam jams. So good to be home. My heart is full, and so is my schedule. Who said a wedding is easy? No one... but is it fun? Absolutely! Looking forward to the next few days @drmadhuakhourichopra." Siddharth Chopra got engaged to actor Neelam Upadhyaya in August 2024. —ANI

Juliette Binoche to head Cannes Film Festival jury



Juliette Binoche, who won an Oscar for her portrayal of a nurse in "The English Patient", was named as jury president for the 2025 Cannes Film Festival on Tuesday.

Binoche had her first major role in André Téchiné's "Rendez-vous", which premiered in Cannes in 1985.

"In 1985, I walked up the steps for the first time with the enthusiasm and uncertainty of a young actress," Binoche was quoted in the festival statement as saying.

"I never imagined I'd return 40 years later to the honorary role of president of the jury. I appreciate the privilege, the responsi-

bility, and the absolute need for humility."

Binoche has won awards at Europe's three biggest film festivals: Cannes, Venice and Berlin.

In Cannes, she won the award for Best Actress in 2010, for her role as an antiques dealer in Abbas Kiarostami's "Certified Copy". Binoche will succeed "Barbie" director Greta Gerwig. — Reuters